

## JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

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Activity: Urban Park and Recreation Fund

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Program Components	2000 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2001 Budget Request	Change From 2000 (+/-)
A. Urban Park and Recreation Grants	2,000	0	+16,900	18,900	+16,900
B. Urban Park and Recreation Grants Administration	0	0	+1,100	1,100	+1,100
<b>Total Requirements \$(000)</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+18,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>+18,000</b>

### AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 2501-2514	The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act (UPARR) of 1978
Public Law 95-625	The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Title X
Public Law 106-113	The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, as enacted by section 1000(a)(3) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2000

### OVERVIEW

The **Urban Park and Recreation Fund** activity provides grants to local governments to rehabilitate existing indoor and outdoor recreation facilities; contributes to an increase in investments by urban jurisdictions in planning, revitalization, operation and maintenance of existing recreation systems; and provides grants to communities to demonstrate innovative and cost-effective ways to enhance park and recreation opportunities at the neighborhood level.

### APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

- IIIb Through partnerships with State and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- IIIc Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreation use.

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#### *A. Urban Park and Recreation Fund Grants*

##### *FY 2000 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments*

**Enacted: \$2,000,000**

Through the Urban Park and Recreation Fund, the NPS provides grants targeting low-income inner-city neighborhoods for the rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities and to increase recreation programs and services. Urban Park and Recreation grants have been successful in stimulating local efforts to revitalize critical urban recreation systems. In past years, grants have helped to restore to full operation recreation programs as well as facilities. From swimming pools to basketball courts, such restorations make more efficient use of existing urban infrastructure and enhance close-to-home opportunities for center city urban residents. In addition to stimulating recreation redevelopment, these UPARR grants also stimulate job creation in urban areas.

### **National Recreation and Preservation/Urban Park and Recreation Fund**

Based on prior Urban Park and Recreation Fund grant competitions, the NPS anticipates receiving more than 100 applications totaling near \$20 million. From these 100 applications an estimated seven to ten grants will be awarded.

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#### **FY 2001 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2001 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
■Urban Park and Recreation Grants \$(000)	18,900	+16,900
The FY 2001 request for Urban Park and Recreation Grants is \$18.9 million, which represents an increase of \$16.9 million over the FY 2000 enacted level. The FY 2001 proposed programmatic increase of \$16.9 million to Urban Park and Recreation Grants activities includes:		
	\$(000)	
■ Urban Park and Recreation Grants	16,900	
Total	16,900	
Justification for this increase is included at the end of this activity’s presentation.		

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#### ***B. Urban Park and Recreation Grants Administration FY 2000 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments***

**Enacted: [\$304,000]**

In addition to the operational administration of the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery grant program, the NPS provides technical assistance to potential grantees in updating plans and developing grant applications; reviews and ranks several hundred preapplications, and awards grant and obligations for successful applicants.

Funding for this activity was provided within the Grants Administration subactivity in FY 2000.

#### **Performance Goals**

Long-term Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2005, the 34,602 recreational properties (estimated for September 30, 2005), assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation.
Annual Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2001, 100% of the 32,689 recreational properties assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation..

**National Recreation and Preservation/Urban Park and Recreation Fund**

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Fund Workload Factors	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimate	FY 2001 Estimate
Number of sites inspected and certified operational	48	480	772
Number of threatened sites	15	25	42
Number of active grants completed and closed out	8	7	0

**FY 2001 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2001 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
▪Urban Park and Recreation Grants Administration \$(000)	1,100	+1,100

The FY 2001 request for Urban Park and Recreation Grants Administration is \$1.1 million, which represents an increase of \$1.1 million over the FY 2000 enacted level. The FY 2001 proposed programmatic increase of \$1.1 million to Urban Park and Recreation Grants Administration activities includes:

	\$(000)
▪ Urban Park and Recreation Grants Administration	1,100
Total	1,100

Justification for this increase is included at the end of this activity’s presentation.

**JUSTIFICATION OF FY 2001 BUDGET REQUEST FOR URBAN PARK AND RECREATION FUND**

	2001 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
Urban Park and Recreation Fund \$(000)	20,000	+18,000

The FY 2001 request for the Urban Park and Recreation Fund is \$20 million and 14 FTE, which represents an increase of \$18.0 million and a net 12 FTE above the FY 2000 enacted level. The programmatic increase of \$18.0 million for the Urban Park and Recreation Fund activity is justified by the proposed changes that follow:

■ **Urban Park and Recreation Grants (+\$16,900,000):** The NPS is proposing an increase of \$16.9 million in FY 2001 for the Urban Park and Recreation Fund as part of the Administration's *Lands Legacy Initiative*. Throughout the Nation, the overriding issue confronting State and local public officials is how to preserve open space in the

## **National Recreation and Preservation/Urban Park and Recreation Fund**

face of growing populations, increasing demand for land and water resources, traffic congestion, and other pressures. Around the country, voters have approved in the last several years nearly 200 initiatives aimed at controlling or limiting sprawl, preserving open space, and improving their communities. Citizens once again recognize the importance of Fredrick Law Olmsted's vision of open space accessible to the public. The country now has an opportunity to take the "long look ahead," protect lands of national significance and the next great places, and address the needs of communities in tackling the problems of the twenty-first century.

Funding proposed by the NPS for this initiative in FY 2001 will be used to continue revitalization of the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery grant program which provides grants to eligible local governments to rehabilitate existing recreation facilities and to promote innovative and cost-effective approaches to enhance park and recreation opportunities in inner-city neighborhoods. Applicants may also receive planning grants to develop a Recovery Action Plan, a prerequisite for participating in the UPARR program. An increase of \$16,900,000 to the current funding level of \$2,000,000 will yield an additional 100 to 125 grants over the estimated FY 2000 level. This \$20 million program total includes \$1.1 million for new grant administration and for ongoing stewardship responsibilities for previously funded project sites.

The NPS has competitive criteria and procedures already in place for awarding grants and anticipates that it could be ready to consider applications by March 31, 2001, with all but a few projects completed by 2004. There are three types of grants available under the UPARR program, all with matching funds requirements. Both Rehabilitation and Innovation grants leverage greater public or private investment in the form of services, materials and dollars. Recovery Action Program planning grants provide matching funds (50% Federal/50% Local) to eligible jurisdictions.

Rehabilitation projects emphasize improving recreation services to inner-city minority and low to moderate income populations and the rehabilitation of recreation improvements at specific sites resulting in the overall enhancement of a community's recreation system. Since 1979, approximately \$174 million has been awarded for 537 rehabilitation grants (70% Federal share/30% Local). There is no limit on funds for rehabilitation grants.

Innovation projects focus on new, unique and more effective means for delivering recreation services to disadvantaged community populations, programs which emphasize environmental education, family orientation and exposure to our natural resource base, and increased citizen involvement in project conception and implementation. Since 1979, approximately \$27 million has been awarded for 191 innovation grants (70% Federal share/30% Local). Innovation grants are limited by law to ten percent of the amount appropriated in a fiscal year.

Recovery Action Program (RAP) planning grants provide matching funds (50% Federal/50% Local) to eligible jurisdictions for the development of recreation planning priorities and strategies for overall recreation system recovery. Since 1979, approximately \$15 million has been awarded for 549 RAP grants. Recovery Action Program grants are limited to three percent of the amount appropriated in a fiscal year.

Over the last 20 years, the UPARR program has rehabilitated playgrounds, recreation centers, parks, ball fields, tennis and basketball courts, and swimming pools. Through innovation grants, this program has also helped turn an abandoned coal bunker into a recreation center, national guard armories into gymnasiums and community centers, and a shopping center and walkway into an exercise trail and senior citizen center; provided funds for recreation and education programs for teens; assisted communities in providing outdoor adventure and wilderness programs for inner-city youth that have limited mobility in seeking other recreation opportunities; developed swimming and water safety programs for minority children and disabled persons; and encouraged after-school

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programs for youth which are organized and run by public and private agencies working together to provide educational, cultural and environmental activities.

Many programs have been very successful in leveraging additional funding from public and private organizations. New Jersey's Abandoned Coal Bunker Recreation Center is now a public/private partnership serving over 180 youths a day. Voluntary contributions are still its major source of income. Indianapolis, Indiana's Youth Conservation Corps, a program whereby inner-city youth renovated Washington Park and constructed an ecological pond, was supported in part by several area businesses which provided funds, transportation, and food for the youth while the park was being rehabilitated. Tucson, Arizona's KIDCO program (an after school and summer recreation program), is an effective and unique means of delivering after school and summer recreation programs for youth. The city developed a demonstration program that offers a wide range of recreation activities for the youth in the community. Recreation leader training manuals were developed as a result of this successful program, and have been distributed upon request to many cities across the Nation.

▪ ***Urban Park and Recreation Grants Administration (+\$1,100,000; +14 FTE):*** The NPS is proposing an increase of \$1.1 million and 14 FTE in FY 2001 for administration of the Urban Park and Recreation Grants program. Administrative funds are to cover the costs associated with technical assistance to potential grantees in updating plans and developing grant applications, review and ranking of several hundred preapplications, and grant awards and obligations for successful applicants. In addition, the NPS has ongoing fiduciary activities for more than 1,300 sites completed under previous grants and for managing active grants from previous grant rounds. Ongoing park protection efforts include periodic inspections or grantee certifications of completed project sites to ensure continuing full public access and utility for recreation as required by Section 1010 of the enabling legislation. Of the \$1.1 million request for administration, \$304,000 had been previously funded under the Grants Administration activity; \$240,000 is associated with needed expenses for administering new grants at the \$2.0 million level; and the remaining \$557,000 will administer the new \$16,900,000 of grant funding. While 14 FTE are new to this component within the new activity, the staffing requirement actually reflects an increase of only seven full-time equivalents over the FY 2000 level.